METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AN EAR BUD WITH A CIRCLE-OF-SIGHT (COS) SIGNALING ELEMENT

RELATED U.S. APPLICATIONS DATA

[0001] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of provisional patent application Ser. No. 62/603,163 filed on May 17th, 2017, entitled "Non-verbal Person to Person Line of Sight Electronic Communication Protocol Standard", which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a conspicuous signalling element integrated or coupled to a user device, and more particularly, relates to an integrated, capped, or pasted ear-bud stem with a color-coded display element for signalling a protocol-defined communication to another user within a circle-of-sight (CoS) of the first user.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0003] Badges have long been a mainstay in public gathering situations as a way to identify the people engaged in the public gathering. It has also been a primary way of communicating to others a level of credential to facilitate access or a professional process. While the badge has long been simply a name card, with title, and possibly a photo, they have recently morphed into digital versions. Digital badges may be operatively coupled to networked devices and be enabled to reconfigurably display items. According to one embodiment disclosed and claimed by Identity Systems, Inc. (US20150348498), the digital badge device may include a mounting means, power source, microprocessor, memory, and display to receive and display digital content from a network device according to a pre-defined rule. Identity Systems badge may be associated with an individual or employee, and then automatically display at least the name of the individual or employee based on the association and the pre-defined interaction rules between the digital badge and networked device.

[0004] Identity Systems digital badge does not disclose or claim for any digital interaction between digital badges. In other words, the badges are not configured to communicate between badges or share digital content between badges or from badge to networked device. Therefore, the badges are simply contemplated as being a visual display of identity or group/brand association—that may be dynamically displayed according to a pre-defined rule. However, it is not envisioned to serve as a true digital communication tool, that may interact with other badges, and push digital content from one badge to another badge—in a dynamic and targeted fashion. Additionally, badge-displayed content or badge-badge shared content is not enabled for social media sharing or inclusion into a running virtual footprint of a badge wearer. What's more, without tracking of such a virtual footprint, behavior or influence ratings cannot be accurately identified in order to dynamically push targeted content.

[0005] Aside from a lack of badge-badge or badge-device interactivity or footprint tracking for targeted content delivery, digital badges lack a system or protocol for communicating an approach or further engagement of digital content interaction. More specifically, badges, such as Invent Systems, lack a symbol or color-coded display cue between users who are in their 'line of sight' (or groups of people) for communicating a permission to approach, and more particularly, further sharing of content messages, emotions, feelings, wellbeing, states of mind, general interest, marketing and advertising, and interactive behavior for likeminded people.

[0006] Digital badges need a form of universal standard language which would transcend normal language and enhance it for the digital communication between at least two badges or at least between badge and receiver. The communication protocol would also need to take this language into account to enable humans to act on the language interaction. Conventionally, people cannot transmit a message directly to another person who is in their line of sight without talking, signalling or using a facial expression to communicate with them. There is currently no method for a person to send an electronic signal to person in their line of sight directly. There is currently no method for an individual to display and instantly transmit their willingness to be approached, feelings, emotions, state of mind, state of like-mindedness, social media footprint, general interests and digital information or online dashboards. Furthermore, there is no global standard or universal symbol language to communicate non-verbal approach messages via badge devices. Currently, there is also no way for two like-minded people to share non-verbal content messages between badges and, or static devices.

[0007] Currently, there is no existing protocol for the interactivity of line-of-sight badges; line-of-sight devices; or any worn devices. There is no existing signalling display mechanism from any device as a means to non-verbally communicate a willingness of physical approach—and furthermore activating a digital interaction between devices for triggering a digital event. Finally, there is no existing protocol for the interoperability across different device forms—allowing for one wearing a badge device to interact with one wearing an interactive glass device or smart watch, etc.

[0008] In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic gripping the entire world, it has become increasingly clear that a line-of-sight signalling devise may be crucial for signalling to others a "health status". This displayed "health status" would ensure an "up-to-the-minute" digital certification issued by a public health registry—allaying any concerns or fears from others attempting to engage. This "health status" display would allow for even non-essential channels of commerce to reopen. It has been recently estimated by the IMF that we will experience a 3% contraction in global GDP as a result of the pandemic. The sectors that have been most affected are those that involve a high-level of social interaction, such as the food service industry. According to a recent report from the National Restaurant Association, 3% of the 4,000 member restaurants have already permanently gone out of business, with a staggering 12% anticipating going out of business by the end of April 2020. This vital channel of commerce may be reopened—despite the lack of ubiquitous testing or a vaccine—provided every customer and employee was mandated to display a time-stamped public health agency-issued "COVIF-free" certification.

[0009] Furthermore, there is sorely a need for a user-worn display device that may also be used as a social distancing and contact tracing tool. While there is an emerging consensus that social distancing has been instrumental in flattening the epidemiological curve, in reality, it is quite